

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 249

By Weaver

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize Elder Charles Allen Gentry on the occasion of the fiftieth reunion of Smith County High School's Class of 1961.

WHEREAS, high school reunions are an important part of the fabric of our society, because they provide an excellent opportunity to fondly remember the past, renew old acquaintances, and to embrace and look forward to the future; and

WHEREAS, it is the great pleasure of this General Assembly to honor and congratulate those graduates of Tennessee public schools, both past and present, who have brought great honor and acclaim to our State through both their personal and professional successes; and

WHEREAS, Smith County High School's Class of 1961 is one such worthy group of individuals, who will join together on April 30, 2011, to celebrate their fiftieth high school reunion; and

WHEREAS, at this much-anticipated gathering, the former classmates will honor and recognize Elder Charles Allen Gentry, a distinguished alumnus who evinces the greatest integrity and probity in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, born on November 30, 1942, in Smith County, Elder Gentry is the son of Charles Washington and June Vaden Gentry; and

WHEREAS, Charles Allen Gentry was joined in holy matrimony with Bobbye Glenda "Puddin" Angel on August 17, 1963, and the blessed union produced three beautiful children and four precious grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, having given his heart to the Lord on September 18, 1954, at Caney Fork Missionary Baptist Church, Elder Gentry first heard the divine call to the ministry at the tender age of fifteen; and

WHEREAS, Elder Gentry was ordained on May 29, 1960, and has served the faithful with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, ever since; and

WHEREAS, standing as a paragon of love and forgiveness, Charles Allen Gentry tirelessly contributed his time and tremendous talents as the pastor of North Carthage Baptist Church and Green Valley Missionary Baptist Church, where he worked assiduously to provide hope and communicate God's love to his congregants and community; and

WHEREAS, always sharing in the ministries of sympathy, witness, and service, Elder Gentry faithfully visits the ailing and elderly each week; and

WHEREAS, active in a number of religious and civic activities, Charles Allen Gentry is a devoted member of the Help Center of Smith County Committee, the Chaplin of Riverview Regional Medical Center, and the former President of the Smith County High School Quarterback Club; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career as a religious leader and humble servant of God, Elder Gentry has performed over 1,240 weddings, 2,157 funerals, 300 revivals, and 14,000 sermons; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Charles Allen Gentry is most grateful of the love and support he shares with his beloved wife. He is the proud father and father-in-law of Regina Gentry Morris and Tom Morris, Julie Gentry Kitchen and Chris Kitchen, and Charles Allen Gentry II and Sabra Gentry and the doting grandfather of Charlie Elizabeth Gentry, Chloe Addison Kitchen, Kobe Bryce Kitchen, and Ella Kate Gentry; and

WHEREAS, Elder Gentry will join his fellow members of the Smith County Class of 1961 from across the country as they reunite on this very special weekend to celebrate their commitment to friendships and the joys of togetherness; and

WHEREAS, in these trying and turbulent times, sound friendships such as those held among members of the Smith County Class of 1961 are beacons of sanity and harmony, and their love and unity foretell a better tomorrow for all of us; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and recognize a distinguished member of the Smith County High

School Class of 1961, Elder Charles Allen Gentry, upon the very special occasion of the class's fiftieth high school reunion.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we wish these alumni great jubilation and fine fellowship during this reunion as they take pride in having graduated from an esteemed educational institution of the great State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.